

Student Number 30

First Draft

A champion was born prematurely on June 23, 1940. The 20th child of a family to eventually have 22 children in all. You'd think in such a large family she wouldn't be all that special... but she was to be nothing far from special.

At first, Wilma was home-schooled because, sadly, she was crippled. The doctors diagnosed her with polio, but her mother wouldn't give up. Finally, they found the Meharry Hospital where she was supposed to be cured. At age seven she began public school. At this time the white and blacks were separated so the schooling wasn't the best. In junior high she joined the basketball team, following the footsteps of her older sister, Yolanda. She didn't play one single game for three years until, finally, her coach had her starting as guard. Wilma went on to set state records for scoring and lead her team to the state championship.

Revised

A champion was born on June 23, 1940, in Clarksville, Tennessee. Wilma Rudolph was the 20th child of a family eventually to have 22 children. You would think in such a large family it would be hard to stick out... But she was to be nothing far from special.

At first, Wilma was home-schooled because, sadly, she was crippled. The doctors diagnosed her with polio, but her mother wouldn't give up. Finally, they found the Meharry Hospital, where she was supposed to be cured. Her mother took her there twice a week until she was able to walk, even though it was 50 miles away.

At age seven, she began public school. At this time, the white and blacks were separated so the schooling wasn't the best. In junior high she joined the basketball team, following the footsteps of her older sister, Yolanda. She didn't play one single game for three years until, finally, her coach had her starting as guard. Wilma went on to set state records for scoring and lead her team to the state championship.

After basketball, track became her passion. She went to her first Olympic Games at the age of 16. She won the 4x4 bronze medal. Then, at the 1960 Olympic Games Wilma was the first American woman to win three gold medals. She won the 100-meter dash, 200-meter dash, and her team won the 400-meter relay. Her achievements have led her to be one of the best female athletes of all times.

She is definitely one of my role models. In practice when I'm hurting or tired, I just think of her many struggles. Even through polio, racism, and put downs, she didn't quit and became great at what she did best. I think she is a great role model for many people because she never gave up.